

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, America was founded on the principle that everyone should get a shot at the American Dream. But with so much unemployment, so many mortgages underwater, so many people struggling just to get by, it's not surprising that half of all Americans think the American Dream is dead.

This Congress should be making job creation our top priority. But what has the majority in the House done to create jobs? Nothing.

What's even worse, every job proposal that President Obama has sent to this House has been met with a resounding "no." And what's their alternative? To do nothing.

Democrats have been working to pass legislation to grow this economy and create new jobs. After 42 weeks of doing nothing, it's time for the Republican majority to join us in giving the American people the jobs they need and deserve.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN JOBS PLAN

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are welcome to their own opinions but not welcome to create the facts.

When the Democrats took over the Congress 4 years ago, almost 5 years ago now, the unemployment rate was 4.5 percent. It went to over 9 percent since they were in control.

The reason the President's so-called jobs bill has not been passed in this House is because the Democrats did not support it. It was introduced by request.

What Republicans have done, though, is focus on the task of creating jobs since day one of this session. And I'm glad that President Obama's talking about it too. We will work with the President when he comes up with ideas that work. But so far his proposals have not worked. Notice the stimulus bill that he asked us to pass that would not raise unemployment above 8 percent.

He wants to raise taxes on job creators, and all it will do is destroy private sector jobs.

A SIMPLE JOBS PLAN

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to propose a plan that is as simple as one, two, three.

Number one is getting back to basics and helping to create badly needed jobs. This economy will not grow unless we stimulate private sector job growth. It's time to drop the partisan bickering and focus on creating jobs and creating them now. Pass the President's jobs bill.

Number two is building up our infrastructure. Work on our roads and

trains is desperately needed to help America compete, and this badly needed repair work creates jobs that cannot be outsourced. We need to pass the transportation bill now.

Number three is embracing a bold and balanced vision and crafting a true bipartisan agreement in the super committee, one that cuts our deficits by trillions, invests and raises revenues, and creates jobs. No one is pretending it will be easy, but if we get back to basics it could be as easy as one, two, three.

MAIN STREET BANK CLOSES THREE BRANCHES

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week I met with over a dozen community bankers in my congressional district. They are concerned for "the tsunami of regulations" coming out of Washington, D.C.

Now, these are not Wall Street bankers, these are small town bankers. They told me, "Washington regulators have their feet on the throats of small community banks who did not cause this economic downturn."

The real life consequences of Dodd-Frank on our community banks impact our local small businesses, our communities' job creators. The reason is simple: Paying more money to comply with complicated, costly, meaningless regulations means fewer loans out the door for small businesses.

Higher costs for compliance is why Main Street Bank in Kingwood, Texas will close three branches this week. It simply costs too much money to stay in the community banking business these days.

When community banks close there are fewer opportunities for small business owners to access capital. I often hear small business owners say they can't get loans. This is why. These are the real consequences of burdensome, costly, ineffective Federal regulations.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1230

REPUBLICANS' REFUSAL TO ACT ON AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it has been nearly 11 months that this Republican-led House of Representatives has pursued a no-jobs agenda and simply complains about the protections that the American citizens receive.

The American Jobs Act will put teachers, firefighters, police officers, and construction workers back on the job; it will create job opportunities for returning American veterans; it will cut taxes and create financial growth

incentives for American businesses as well as provide much-needed job training and hiring programs for Americans that are currently looking for work.

Many provisions of the American Jobs Act have been strongly supported by Republicans in the past, but now, suddenly, they are against these ideas because they are being proposed by a Democratic President. This is the opposite of negotiation and compromise, and the American people do not have the patience for these antics instead of action.

I urge both parties of this House to work together and pass the American Jobs Act for the American people.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR WITHHOLDING REPEAL ACT

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today again in support of small business owners and builders all across the United States who will be harmed by a new tax withholding requirement by the Federal Government.

With unemployment at 9.1 percent and holding, we desperately need to come together to do all that we can to get our economy growing. But our economic recovery will not come from government growth. It will come from entrepreneurs, innovators, and small business owners who take risk, expand, hire new workers and create economic growth the old-fashioned way—in the private sector through hard work and free enterprise.

The imposition of a 3 percent withholding tax increase is the cost of doing business for our small business owners and therefore hurts job growth and the economic recovery. We cannot create jobs while punishing job creators. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 674, legislation that will remove this burdensome new tax requirement on our small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, we must come together as a Congress and do all that we can to promote legislation like this that will remove barriers to economic growth and get America back to work again.

FIRST RESPONDERS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, just this past week, the country of Turkey, an ally of ours, experienced a devastating earthquake. Nearly 400 people, they believe, have died, and there's been great damage to the countryside. We've seen these disasters now in Japan and South America and other places. We've seen them in our country, too. We had problems last year.

Who comes to the aid of the people in Turkey whom we look out for as well and are concerned about? First responders, policemen, and firepeople.